

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 180932Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6451

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, PO, TZ

SUBJECT: CHISSANO TO BE PM IN MOZAMBIQUE?

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 3171 (NOTAL)

1. RELIABLE LOCAL NEWS SOURCE TOLD DCM SEPTEMBER 17 THAT JOAQUIN CHISSANO WHO HAS HEADED FRELIMO OFFICE IN DAR ES SALAAM FOR YEARS IS NATURAL CHOICE TO HEAD INTERIM GOVERNMENT AS PRIME MINISTER IN MOZAMBIQUE PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE JUNE 25, 1975. CHISSANO IS RECOGNIZED AS TOP ADMINISTRATOR IN FRELIMO. IN ADDITION, HIS LOYALTY TO FRELIMO IS UNQUESTIONED AND HE HAS BEEN ORGANIZATION'S SECURITY CHIEF. ADMINIS- TRATIVE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING, FIRST, INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND, THEN, CREATING BASIS FOR INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT IN NINE MONTHS IN MOZAMBIQUE CONSIDERED COMPLICATED AND ONEROUS. CHISSANO WAS REPORTEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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KEY NEGOTIATOR IN CRITICAL TALKS HERE MOST RECENTLY

WITH PORTUGUESE (DAR ES SALAAM 2806) ABOUT ORGANIZATION OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND PROCEDURES FOR TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. THUS FRELIMO IS SELECTING ITS BEST MAN TO TRY TO ASSURE AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE.

2. FRELIMO PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL IS STILL TOP CHOICE, HOWEVER, FOR PRESIDENT OF INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE. HE LED MILITARY STRUGGLE AND IS SYMBOL OF SUCCESS OF THAT STRUGGLE TO ALL MOZAMBICANS. VICE PRESIDENT MARCELLINO DOSHIANTOS IS IDEOLOGUE OF FRELIMO. MACHEL AND DOS SANTOS WILL SPEND NEXT NINE MONTHS IN MOZAMBIQUE TRYING TO TRANSFORM FRELIMO FROM GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION TO TIGHT-KNIT POLITICAL PARTY COVERING ALL OF MOZAMBIQUE.

3. JANET MONDLANE, WIDOW OF ASSASSINATED FRELIMO CHIEF EDUARDO MONDLANE, ACCOMPANIED CHISSANO TO LOURENCO MARQUES. SHE IS LIKELY CANDIDATE TO HEAD HEALTH-SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY IN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. SHE IS ALSO TO BE SYMBOL OF FRELIMO'S PLEDGE IN SUPPORT OF MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY REPORT IN MARCH 1969 DESCRIBED CHISSANO AS "SHARP, COMPETENT, AND A GOOD LINGUIST." ANOTHER SOURCE IN EMBASSY FILES REPORTS IN 1972 THAT CHISSANO "WOULD TAKE PLACE OF SELF-EXILED URIA SIMANGO AS ONE OF FRELIMO TRIUMVIRATE, BUT WE HAVE NO WORD THAT THIS HAS, IN FACT, OCCURRED." IF NAMED PM OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE, ASSUME THAT WOULD IDENTIFY CHISSANO PUBLICLY AS MEMBER FRELIMO TRIUMVIRATE. CONCEPT OF "TRIUMVIRATE" IN FRELIMO DATES BACK TO MERGER IN 1962 OF THREE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH SUPPORTED IN MOZAMBIQUE ON REGIONAL AND ETHNIC BASIS. THIS THREE STREAM ORIGIN OF FRELIMO IS APPARENTLY STILL OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN ORGANIZATION.
CARTER

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